

**To:** Card, Joan[Card.Joan@epa.gov]  
**From:** McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa  
**Sent:** Thur 8/20/2015 5:43:57 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Please review AP questions: 14; 17; and 18

# Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Lisa McClain-Vanderpool

Public Affairs Specialist/Media Officer

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**From:** Card, Joan  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2015 11:43 AM  
**To:** McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Williams, Laura; Murray, Bill; Schmittiel, Paula; Wharton, Steve; Russell, Carol; Fagen, Elizabeth; Peterson, Cynthia  
**Cc:** Lensink, Andy; Smith, Paula; Mylott, Richard; Jenkins, Laura Flynn; Hestmark, Martin; Stavnes, Sandra; Ward, W. Robert; Piggott, Amelia  
**Subject:** RE: Please review AP questions: 14; 17; and 18

# Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

**From:** McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2015 11:39 AM  
**To:** Williams, Laura; Murray, Bill; Schmittiel, Paula; Wharton, Steve; Russell, Carol; Fagen, Elizabeth; Peterson, Cynthia

**Cc:** Lensink, Andy; Smith, Paula; Mylott, Richard; Jenkins, Laura Flynn; Hestmark, Martin; Stavnes, Sandra; Card, Joan; Ward, W. Robert; Piggott, Amelia  
**Subject:** Please review AP questions: 14; 17; and 18

I have the following answers – everyone okay with these? I will send them around as I get them.

14. Had Gold King Mine been designated a Superfund site, what would have been the chances of the spill happening?

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17. Was a preliminary assessment ever completed on the Gold King Mine or for a group of mines including Gold King?

**Deliberative Process/Ex. 5**

18. it's my understanding that the EPA has said a water treatment plant estimated to cost \$12-\$17m (and \$1M a year to operate) would be able to clean the water in the Animas. Is that correct? And if so, is it the type of expense that Superfund would cover?

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**From:** McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2015 9:20 PM

**To:** Williams, Laura; Murray, Bill; Schmittziel, Paula; Wharton, Steve; Stavnes, Sandra; Hestmark, Martin; Card, Joan

**Cc:** Urdiales, Aaron; Smith, Paula; Mylott, Richard; Jenkins, Laura Flynn

**Subject:** ACTION ASAP: AP questions requiring your assistance PLEASE!

All – We have a big list of questions from AP that I will need help addressing. Thank you for all the work on responses to Epoch Times and WSJ inquiries! Unfortunately, none of those questions fully answer these. You'll see how I've divided them up between JIC in Durango, here

in the region and HQ. (correct me if I'm wrong on who I've assigned it to).

Laura Williams is our bridge to the JIC.

If any of you have answers right off the bat, please cc everyone.

Thank you for your help!!

1. Please provide baseline data that's being used to support EPAs statements that "sediment sample concentrations are trending toward pre-event conditions" Please provide this information for multiple locations, including the Durango area or vicinity, the Farmington area or vicinity, and Lake Powell.

#### **Deliberative Process/Ex. 5**

2. The EPA has built four containment ponds to clean and then discharge continuing runoff from the mine. How long does the EPA expect those containment ponds to remain in place? What other work at the site of the spill is under consideration immediately?

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3. Is additional work planned for any nearby mines that are interrelated with Gold King? Please provide names of those mines, what work is being considered and any timeline for when it will be conducted.

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4. What long-term plans for stopping the flow of wastewater from Gold King are under consideration?

#### **Deliberative Process/Ex. 5**

5. what is the cost estimate for long term-remediation for Gold King (or the Gold King area including other mines)?

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6. Can the EPA provide an estimate of the cost of its response to the spill to date? Has the EPA set aside any money to deal with this accident on an ongoing basis?

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7. We were told by Bureau of Land Management that the EPA maintains a database of mines on non-public lands. Can you provide me with an electronic copy of this dataset, preferably in an Excel or comparable file, along with a data dictionary that explains each field and records contained in it?

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8. Please provide further details on the Administrator's order from last week to cease work on field investigations at other mine sites. Without some context, the order doesn't mean too much to us: how many mine sites will be impacted? Where? Does the order apply to cleanup work that is ongoing or simply investigative work that would come before a cleanup?

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9. How likely are the contaminants to re-mobilize? How long will this remain a potential problem?

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10. Mines have been leaking contamination into some of these rivers for many years; will the Gold King spill appreciably increase the contamination load in the sediments for the Animas, San Juan or other water bodies?

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11. If the contaminants do re-mobilize, what are the chances that they will pose enough of a threat to prompt more drinking water advisories, closing of rivers, etc?

(we have a partial response stating that any additional events would be smaller in scale, but would appreciate more detail)

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12. Are there any plans to try to remove contamination from sediment? Is that even possible?

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13. or analytes listed in the tables of data results (including arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, iron, barium, etc) can you please provide corresponding EPA water quality criteria?

JIC Durango?

14. had Gold King Mine been designated a Superfund site, what would have been the chances of the spill happening?

R8?

15. how many mines are currently on the National Priorities List? Can we get a list of those or is there a way to search on the Superfund website?

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16. Is there a gauge of how often resistance to a Superfund designation by local officials has prevented a site's listing?

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17. Was a preliminary assessment ever completed on the Gold King Mine or for a group of mines including Gold King?

**Deliberative Process/Ex. 5**

18. it's my understanding that the EPA has said a water treatment plant estimated to cost \$12-\$17m (and \$1M a year to operate) would be able to clean the water in the Animas. Is that correct? And if so, is it the type of expense that Superfund would cover?

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